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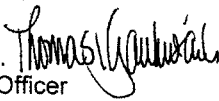
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October 21, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: BIOTERRORISM ACTION PLAN QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

As requested by your Board, this is the quarterly status report on activities related to the bioterrorism action plan.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Funds

The National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program (NBHPP) Cooperative Agreement Application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 (August 31, 2003 - August 30, 2004) was submitted by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency to HRSA on July 1. The application was approved and the Notice of Grant Award (NGA) for the \$15,583,364 that is being allocated to the Department of Health Services (DHS) was received on September 26. This grant award is being brought to your Board for approval.

An orientation to participate in the FY 2003 grant was conducted on September 29. Hospitals that did not participate in FY 2002 were invited. This included non-participating 9-1-1 receiving hospitals and non-9-1-1 receiving hospitals. A separate orientation for the FY 2002 participating hospitals will be conducted October 23.

As part of the NBHPP, a concept for Disaster Resource Centers (DRC) is being developed. Select hospitals will be designated as a DRC and have the responsibility for disaster planning for the medical community in a geographic area. The DRC concept is being developed to address issues related to surge capacity. The concept is intended as a starting point to develop plans, relationships and procedures for responding to a terrorist event. Outcomes associated with this program include the following:

- Enhance surge capacity for hospitals through the provision of ventilators, pharmaceuticals, medical/surgical supplies and large tent shelters to provide treatment to victims of a terrorist event or other public health emergency.
- Enhance hospital planning and cooperation in a geographical area to include planning regarding surge capacity. This planning should address the use of non-hospital space to shelter and treat mass casualties, including the role of local community health centers and clinics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Funds

The Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism continuation application for Budget Year Four (August 31, 2003 - August 30, 2004) was submitted by Public Health to CDC on July 1. The application was approved and the NGA for the \$24,531,232 that is being allocated to DHS was received on September 5. This grant award was submitted to your Board for approval.

The Department has started the first cohort of Public Health Leadership Training as one of the requirements for the bioterrorism grant. Over 75 executive level and senior managers will participate in the five-day course. The Department is also working with UCLA School of Public Health to train public health senior managers in the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Incident Command System.

DHS Communications Department is working with Clear Channel Communications to develop public health messages to prepare Los Angeles County residents for a bioterrorist attack or any other public health emergency.

The Bioterrorism Grant is providing over \$500,000 to support the redesign of the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The new system will allow Public Health to provide and receive information regarding natural and man-made emergencies.

CDC and HRSA Joint Activities

The Department continues to develop the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan with the approved contractor, Community Research Associates, Inc. A Chief Pharmacist has been hired to manage this program on a full-time. Additionally, a physician from the Acute Communicable Disease Control Unit has been assigned to oversee the progress. The CDC conducted a site visit on September 16 to review the progress to date that Los Angeles County has made in the development of the SNS plan. A two-day site visit is scheduled for October 21 and 22.

The Smallpox Vaccination Program, which was implemented in January to vaccinate Public Health and Hospital Smallpox Response Teams, has been extended to first responder agencies. Each first responder agency that decided to participate in vaccinating personnel has submitted the names of volunteer vaccinees. Immunization Programs is working with each agency in scheduling the vaccinations.

The EMS Agency and Public Health completed a guidebook entitled *Terrorism Agent Information and Treatment Guidelines for Clinicians and Hospitals*, which was distributed to hospitals, emergency departments, infectious disease specialists and other medical professionals. A copy is provided to your Board.

Other Terrorism Preparedness Funds

The United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) Grant Programs provides grants to support regional planning and cooperation between first responders defined as police, fire and EMS.

In July, the core cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach along with the County of Los Angeles, received the Urban Area Security Initiative - Part II grants. The County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) oversees and manages these grants with each of these cities. The Department has been actively involved in these grants, participating on the Work Group, as well as, serving as a member of the Approval Authority. The Work Group was tasked with meeting the grant requirements, which included the completion of a needs assessment. The Department will also participate in developing an urban area homeland security strategy, which will assist in determining how the funding will be disbursed.

In August, the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) received federal funding in the amount of \$125,000 and a State grant in the amount of \$23,283. The National Medical Response Team (NMRT) also received federal funding in the amount of \$801,247. The DMAT and NMRT are volunteer medical response teams that your Board sponsors and the EMS Agency oversees. The funding for these teams is used to maintain the capability to assemble a team and the necessary equipment fully ready for deployment to a disaster scene when activated by the National Disaster Medical System.

In September, the EMS Agency was notified that a sustainment grant for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) was being made available. An application was submitted on September 23. Los Angeles County is awaiting the approval for the \$250,00 that is being allocated to DHS. This grant award will subsequently be brought to your Board for approval.

Other Terrorism/Disaster Preparedness Activities

On August 3, the EMS Agency, Public Health and DMAT participated in a exercise, *Operation Dark Cloud*, with the City of Los Angeles. This exercise was staged at a large mall and simulated a terrorist attack with a release of a chemical agent.

On August 25 though 27, the NMRT conducted Hazardous Material Response Drills with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The goal of these drills was to strengthen the working relationship between these two entities.

On October 7, the *2003 California Medical and Health Disaster Management Conference* was held in Commerce, California. The EMS Agency was a co-sponsor of this event.

On October 8, the City of Glendale MMRS program conducted a mass distribution site training exercise. This training exercise was supported by DHS. The goal was to educate, train and inform those individuals that would be called upon to work at a distribution site should mass prophylaxis be necessary in a bioterrorist event.

On October 16, the City of Glendale MMRS conducted a Biological Weapons Tabletop exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to provide involved entities with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans and capabilities. The EMS Agency and Public Health not only worked in designing this exercise but also were key participants the day of the exercise.

As requested, I will continue to provide quarterly updates on these grants and terrorism preparedness activities. Please let me know if you have any questions.

TLG:cg:kf
203:006 and C/R 111:005

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors